

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A silicon demultiplexer, a plurality of silicon switches and a silicon multiplexer are monolithically integrated on a single silicon chip. In embodiments, the silicon demultiplexer and the silicon multiplexer each comprise a diffraction grating. In other embodiments, the silicon demultiplexer and the silicon multiplexer each comprise an arrayed waveguide grating. In various exemplary embodiments, the silicon optical switches comprise optical switches, micromachined torsion mirrors, electrostatic micromirrors, and/or tilting micromirrors. In use, an optical signal comprising a multiplexed data stream is input into the monolithic reconfigurable optical multiplexer. An optical signal that comprises a modified multiplexed data stream may be output. In an optical communications system, the silicon demultiplexer communicates with an input optical fiber, the plurality of silicon optical switches communicate between the silicon demultiplexer and the silicon multiplexer, and the silicon multiplexer communicates with an output optical fiber. In various embodiments, the optical switches are fabricated to be self-aligned.